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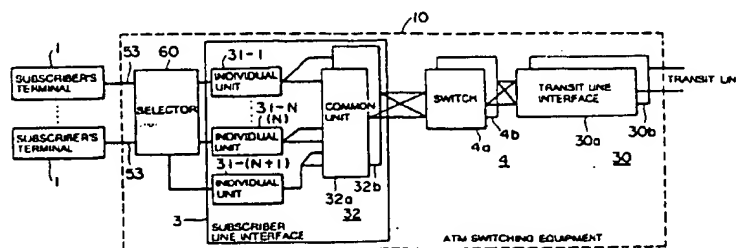
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(54) Switching equipment

(57) Switching equipment is provided for performing a switching process of a fixed length cell consisting of data and a cell header. A line interface (3) provided in the switching equipment accommodates a plurality of lines and, at the same time, processes the data from each line on a cell unit. The line interface includes individual units (31-1 to 31-N) and a common unit (32). The

individual units are individually connected to the plurality of lines accommodated therein and individually process the cells. The common unit is connected to the individual units and, at the same time, effects batch-processing of the cells processed by the individual units.

FIG. 2



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
X	KOJI SUZUKI ET AL: "AN ATM SWITCHING SYSTEM-DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION" NEC RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, vol. 32, no. 2, 1 April 1991, pages 242-251, XP000258458	1,2,9, 10,14, 34,37,38	H04Q11/04 H04L12/56
Y	/* the whole article */	19,32	
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Y	"COMBINED REDUNDANCY AND SPEED-EXPANSION CONCEPT" IBM TECHNICAL DISCLOSURE BULLETIN, vol. 36, no. 11, 1 November 1993, pages 393-395, XP000424897 * page 393, line 1 - line 3 *	19,32	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6) H04Q
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 18 March 1998	Examiner Veen, G
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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Application Number
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A	<p>BANWELL T C ET AL: "PHYSICAL DESIGN ISSUES FOR VERY LARGE ATM SWITCHING SYSTEMS"</p> <p>IEEE JOURNAL ON SELECTED AREAS IN COMMUNICATIONS,</p> <p>vol. 9, no. 8, 1 October 1991,</p> <p>pages 1227-1238, XP000267574</p> <p>* page 1228, left-hand column, line 4 -</p> <p>page 1229, left-hand column, line 28 *</p> <p>-----</p>	1-38	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
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THE HAGUE		18 March 1998	Veen, G
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone</p> <p>Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category</p> <p>A : technological background</p> <p>O : non-written disclosure</p> <p>P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention</p> <p>E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date</p> <p>D : document cited in the application</p> <p>L : document cited for other reasons</p> <p>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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